Ingram v. Wright

In 1970, James Ingram was an eighth-grader at Drew Junior High School in Dale County, FLA. During class one day, James didn’t answer his teacher fast enough. He was taken to the principle’s office and paddled more than 20 times with a flat wooden paddle. The paddling left James with swollen, bruised welts, filled with clotted blood. He required medical attention and missed several days of school.

If a student misbehaved, James later testified, he or she was given a choice: a paddling or a 10-day suspension. Students knew if they missed more than nine days, they would fail the term. This meant summer school. Most students chose the paddling.